



BEOWULF

- Protagonist of the epic
- Geatish hero
- Personifies all of the best values of the heroic culture



HROTHGAR

- King of the Danes
- Personifies what a king should be
- Becomes a model/father figure for Beowulf



WIGLAF

- Young kinsman to Beowulf
- Only warrior to aid Beowulf against the dragon when the others run away
- Proves himself to be a brave & noble successor to Beowulf
- Provides hope for the future



UNFERTH

- Danish warrior
- Jealous of Beowulf
- Dramatic foil for Beowulf
- Unable/unwilling to fight Grendel himself
- Doubts that Beowulf will defeat Grendel
- Lends Beowulf his sword



HIGLAC

- Beowulf's uncle
- King of the Geats



GRENDEL

- Descendant of Cain
 - Part human
 - Outcast from society for Cain's wickedness
- Evil monster who eats Hrothgar's warriors



GRENDEL'S MOTHER

- Unnamed swamp hag
- Kills Hrothgar's men out of revenge



DRAGON

- Ancient, powerful monster
- Guards a treasure hidden in a mountain



HEROT

- Hrothgar's mead hall



HRUNTING

- Beowulf's sword

